

My summer COSTEP experience in Portland, Oregon was great. It was a little intimidating driving from Oklahoma to a part of the country I had never been and a place where I knew no one. Fortunately when I arrived in Portland I found that everybody in the office was very nice and Portland was a very interesting place to live.



The majority of my work this summer involved maintaining a database for IHS health care facilities in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. I got a lot of experience in contract writing and evaluation. I got a basic introduction in HVAC systems and evaluated a geothermal study, taking place in Yakama, Washington. I was also able to complete a ventilation project for the

Colville Indian Health Center. As you can see in the picture I also got out of the office a little to do some surveying. However, my favorite experiences this summer came from traveling around and seeing the different IHS facilities, and meeting the people who keep them running. My experiences this summer have shown me that there is often a lot more to engineering than just crunching numbers.

In my free time I played golf, went fishing, and went out to the Oregon coast. While I was at the Puyallup reservation in Tacoma, Washington I also got the chance to participate in a sweat lodge. It is this type of experience that really makes IHS unique. While doing your job you are able to experience new cultures that you may not be accustomed to.

I really feel that I have learned a lot this summer and consider myself very fortunate to be given this opportunity. I would recommend the summer COSTEP program to anyone looking for a great learning experience professionally and culturally.

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